

GOALPOST SAFETY

make safety your goal

CHECK IT! →

Make sure your goalposts are in good condition and properly constructed. Homemade goalposts should not be used – they do not have built in safety features and may be particularly hazardous for younger players.

SECURE IT! →

Goalposts of any size must be anchored securely to the ground according to manufacturer's instructions. Portable goalposts must be pinned or weighted down to prevent them from overturning. Portable goalposts should be removed from the pitch when not in use and stored securely.

TEST IT! →

Before use, adults should test the goalposts to make sure they are stable. If you are unsure of the safety of your goalposts you should have them tested professionally.

RESPECT IT! →

Respect your equipment. Goalposts are not designed for gymnastic displays. So don't swing on the cross bar.



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GOALPOST SAFETY

play your part



“The Football Association of Ireland ... is working closely with goalpost suppliers to set new standards in goalpost safety”

In recent years, serious injuries and fatalities have occurred arising from the inappropriate use of goalposts.

This leaflet sets out safety guidelines for the use of goalposts and reinforces 4 golden rules to help make safety your No. 1 goal.

The Football Association of Ireland has drawn on best practice from around the world and is working closely with goalpost suppliers to set new standards in goalpost safety.

But, the Football Association of Ireland cannot do it alone. Keeping safety onside is a team effort and everyone must play their part.

In addition to these guidelines the FAI has produced technical and guidance notes for the safe use of goalposts and these are available on our website at www.fai.ie

Anyone purchasing goalposts should inquire of the manufacturers if their goals meet the standards outlined in these documents.



“35% of the goal frames were inadequately anchored”

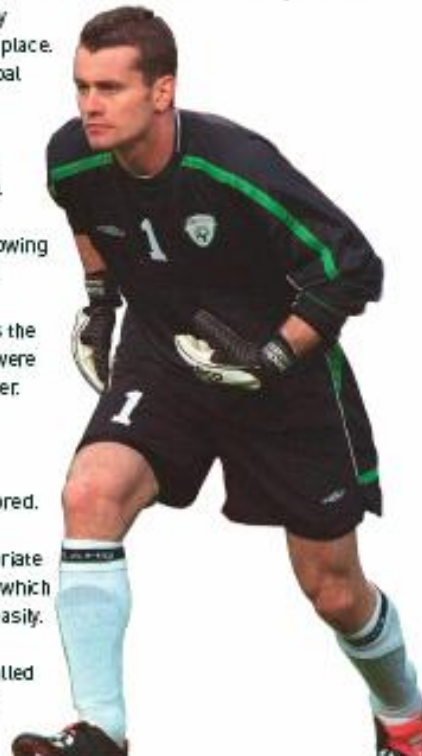
Recently, the State Claims Agency carried out a programme of onsite inspection and testing of goal post sets at a number of schools across the country.

The survey found that nearly all goal frames were made locally and to no particular standard. A wide variety of materials were used; aluminium, gun barrel steel, rectangular steel hollow section, light gauge tubing, softwood and plastic (PVC).

In nearly all cases the goal design, manufacture or installation did not take account of the environment in which they were used and basic safety features were not in place. In many cases the goal frames design, manufacture or installation failed on more than one issue.

In particular the following defects were noted;

- In 30% of the goals the frames' elements were not secured together.
- 35% of the goal frames were inadequately anchored.
- 43% used inappropriate material - material which wore or corroded easily.
- 30% were not installed in ground sockets.



GOALPOST SAFETY GUIDELINES YOUR ROLE →

1. For safety reasons Goalposts of any size (including those which are portable and not installed permanently at a pitch or practice field) must always be anchored securely to the ground.
 - Portable Goalposts must be secured, as per the manufactures instructions.
 - Portable Goalposts should be secured by the use of chain anchors, pegs or appropriate anchorweights to prevent them from toppling over.
 - Under no circumstances should children or adults be allowed to climb, swing or play with the structures of the goalposts.
 - Particular attention should be drawn to the fact that if not properly assembled and secured, portable goalposts may topple over.
2. Portable Goalposts should not be left in place after use. They should be dismantled and removed to a nominated place of secure storage.
3. It is strongly recommended that the nets should only be secured by plastic hooks or tape and not by metal cup hooks. New goalposts should not be purchased if they include metal cup hooks which cannot be replaced.
4. Goalposts, which are 'home made' or which, have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. The use of wooden goalposts should be avoided at all times as it is unlikely that wooden goals will pass a load or stability test. Therefore FAI recommends that wooden goals should be replaced by compliant metal or plastic goalposts.
5. Regular inspection of goalpost equipment is essential to ensure that it is fit for its purpose. Damaged goals should be removed from use until any damaged parts have been replaced.

